

Commercial Advertiser

WALTER G. SMITH - EDITOR.

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UNITY OF ACTION.

If there is one feature of the work of the Legislature which strikes the malini observer as out of joint with politics as done elsewhere in the United States, it is the lack of cohesiveness of the party men. Not only the Republicans, but the Home Rulers, the Democrats even, seem to lack the strong binding tie that exists in other public bodies of the same nature, in other parts of the country. Perhaps an exception might be made, for the sole Democrat in the Legislature has so far managed to be absolutely consistent.

It would be hard to find a State or Territory in which the departments of the government are so closely and consistently Republican, as is the rule here. There may be a few employees who have none of the loyalty of the man who holds his place at the pleasure of a chief of the dominant party, which marks his fellow public servant elsewhere, but he is the exception. The departments have shown that the men in them are devoted to good government, have worked for its success and the recent victory at the polls must be attributed in no small measure to this unity of purpose and effort.

It would seem therefore to the outside observer that there should be due to the government something like loyal support from the members of the Legislature, of the dominant party name and affiliation. This in older countries is shown by upholding the hands of the departments, and doing all that is possible for the carrying on of their work. There may be harm done to the work of the Board of Health if the regulations, which are the outgrowth of years of experience of boards, running from the time of the monarchy to the present, are to be changed at the will of members of the Legislature who have never given to the matter more than the passing thought. It is certain that if the same unthinking laymen are to make these rules, there will be few medical men who would dare risk their reputations and efforts in working on the Board.

The danger, to the Public Works department, as expressed in the remarks of Kumalea, that the Legislature will not come to the aid of the government by paying for work done to meet the needs of growing commerce, is no less great, and certainly there will never in the future be spontaneous aid given to the government, as in the past, if the wharves constructed by private monies are repudiated by the Legislature. There is a larger question than the mere one of vote getting in this upholding of the administration, and where the good of the Territory stands in point, unity of action should commend itself to all thinking men.

CONTROL OF PUBLIC UTILITIES.

The relation of the government and of the people to semi-monopolies such as the furnishing of electric light, power, gas, telephones, cars and water, is one of the most interesting and important questions which affects modern city life and development. Much thought has been given to the subject and valuable experiments made. In Europe these necessary public utilities are owned by the government or are under government supervision, with most excellent results. In the United States the old theory that "the best government is the one which governs the least," held sway for many years; but it is steadily giving way before the theory that natural monopolies and public utilities, which are used by all the people and which must, by their nature, be practical monopolies, should be operated by the people for the benefit of the people and not for private profit.

The question should be carefully and fully considered in Hawaii. The Advertiser invites discussion of the subject through its columns, as one of present vital importance to this community.

The Star advises the culture of ginseng here. Some months ago Wray Taylor got seeds or cuttings which, it is to be presumed, any one is at liberty to call for. Ginseng grows best in forests and brings a good price from Chinese. It is regarded, however, as a difficult crop.

It is pleasant to read that the Senate would like to do for Hawaii, but it would be well to wait on the action of the House before lighting any red fire.

Gen. San Miguel's new revolt in the Philippines will be a godsend to the British anti-expansionists in getting ready for the next elections.

If the Razlag cure for leprosy is a genuine one it will be a blessing to the world, that dollars could not pay for.

Germany's policy towards Venezuela seems to be run by a weathervane.

DEFECTS OF THE LAND LAW.

The Settlement Association idea is an admirable one but it is subject to abuses. Its theory is to put men on the soil who will till it; its practice, in some degree, has been to place men who merely want to speculate with it and who, neither by training, instinct nor ambition are farmers. Nor do they need to be farmers under the terms of their leases. A man may take a farm as a member of a Settlement Association under the right to purchase and, assuming that he gets fifty acres, here is all the agricultural obligation he must fulfill:

(1.) Before the end of the third year he must reduce to cultivation and have under cultivation two acres and a half of land. He can meet this requirement by putting out some sweet potatoes, or sorghum or castor oil beans and letting them take care of themselves.

(2.) At the end of the fifth year he must have five acres under cultivation and five hundred timber, shade or fruit trees growing if the land is agricultural; if pastoral land he must fence it. That is to say his area of sweet potatoes or sorghum or whatever may be easiest to cultivate must be increased in five years from two and a half acres to five and he may comply with the timber regulations by letting the algaroba trees grow up. The time limit of work he needs to do is about three weeks a year.

Having complied with these remarkable conditions and paid a rental of eight per cent on the appraised value of the land—which is merely nominal as Commissioner Boyd says—and maintained a home on the land for five years—which is about the cheapest way known to get a home in Hawaii—the lessee may acquire the property at the nominal figure of appraisement. At any time after the third year of occupancy he may get the land in fee simple for the appraised valuation, providing, in the shorter period, he has put twelve and one-half acres under cultivation. The term "cultivation" would, of course, cover the production of easily grown forage grasses.

Let us see how the speculator can beat the intent of the law: A man who is in business in town wants a fine farm to hold for a rise. He takes fifty acres at, say, \$10 an acre and builds a small cottage on it which he calls his home and stays in over Sunday. In town he boards and does not acknowledge the place as his residence. He votes in the precinct where his farm is located. Each year he pays \$40 rental; and he has a Jap who sees that enough land is cultivated to sorghum or some other forage crop to feed a horse or a cow or sell to some neighboring dairy, and who does not cut down too many algaroba or forest trees. At the end of five years he has grown nothing in particular on the land but its price and is ready, as soon as he pays his \$500 to the Government and gets his deed, to offer the tract for sale at the usual retail prices. Olaa settlers got as much as \$100 per acre. The little speculation at \$100 per acre would net him over \$4,000 and the land is put where the genuine small farmer cannot touch it unless the corporation ultimately buying, chooses to sell at a price within his means.

There are several Settlement Associations on Hawaii which are believed to be of this character and another one is forming, which may or may not be genuine, to take a large tract of valuable land in Kau—land which may have a railroad through it in less than five years. The other day the names of some of the settlers in the new Associations on Hawaii were printed in these columns and if they represent those of genuine farmers we would be glad to have enough evidence of the fact to publish it. People say that a large percentage of them are either dummies or speculators; and that almost the only ones among them who are showing a genuine and capable interest in agriculture are the Bunkouskis, Wawzenitzes, Prusinovskis, Nausagoams and Floikus, et al, of the contingent of imported laborers who figure in the Russian Settlement of Sept. 6, 1900.

This is a poor way to settle up the country, gentlemen of the Legislature, and to make it productive and self-supporting. The tendency of operations under the law is to ultimately increase the holdings of the great land-owners and make it impossible to develop Hawaii "along traditional American lines." The immigrant who comes to help build up the Territory, unless he comes as one of a colony, with the way prepared for him, gets very little show. Is there no way to reserve farm land for farmers; to make the conditions such that if a man takes an area of the public agricultural domain he must use more than a small fraction of it in an agricultural way before he can perfect his title? Is there no way, when land is ready for settlement by an association that it cannot be so advertised that genuine farmers on the mainland as well as here can have an opportunity to get it? Cannot the law be made to operate against the dummy and the speculator rather than in his favor? If not the Advertiser foresees the time when the United States will take the Hawaiian land system into its own hands. This we do not want. Let the local Legislature avoid it by amending the law so that farming land shall go to farmers and not to speculators disguised as farmers.

CORPORATE USE OF STREETS.

The question of corporate use of streets is up again for decision. The Electric Light Company's franchise expires in May. The Company will doubtless seek a renewal thereof.

The Hilo Electric Company is asking a franchise to lay a street railway in Hilo.

A new telephone company wants to lay wires in and over the streets of Honolulu.

A company wants to lay gas pipe in the streets of Honolulu. Whatever is done with these enterprises, one fundamental principle should be insisted upon as a part of every franchise that is granted to use the public streets—and that is that no private corporation should be allowed the use of the streets for any of these special purposes without paying for the privilege.

No corporation gets the use of private property for nothing. Why should it get the use of public property for nothing?

If any private person or company owned the streets of Honolulu, any franchise-seeker would, as a matter of course, expect to pay handsomely for the privilege of using them. Why then should not the present owners—the people—be entitled to the same compensation? Taxes are heavy—they will be heavier under County government. We will need all the revenue available to help pay expenses. A percentage of the gross receipts of the corporations using or proposing to use the streets of Honolulu will go a long way toward reducing the taxes of the people of Honolulu.

In the interest of the people the Advertiser asks that the Legislature bear this principle in mind in its dealings with those seeking franchises in our streets.

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Plain, crescent shaped plates, worth 25c. each; sale price 5c. each.

Glass butter dishes with covers, reduced from 25c to only 10c each.

Ruby glass set, gold decoration: butter dish, sugar bowl, creamer and sugar bowl, formerly \$2.50; now \$1.50.

Round glass nappies, 9 in. diameter, 2 1/2 inches deep, always 35c; now 20c.

Ruby glass water jug, 2 quart size, gold decoration, reduced from \$1.75 to 90c.

Enameled wash basins, blue outside and white inside. A bargain, 10c each.

Glass water pitchers, new design, 55c; 1/2 gallon size, 30c; and 1/4 gallon size, reduced from 20c to only 20c each.

White enameled foot baths, formerly 75c, \$1.25, \$1.75; now 50c, 90c, \$1.10.

White enameled oval dish pans, from \$1.75 to \$1.00 each, and \$1.25 size to 50c.

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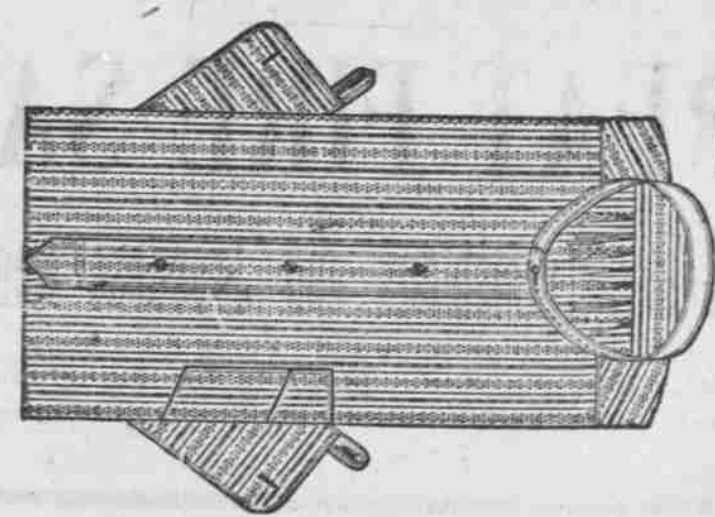
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186.

RUBBER!

at the new line of Negligee Shirts the von Hamm-Young Co., Ltd. are selling at wholesale prices. These shirts are put up three shirts in a box, assorted patterns and may be bought in lots of one box or more.



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